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Anthony J. Como,

Manager, Electric Power Regulation, Office of Coal and Power Im/Ex, Office of Coal and Power Systems, Office of Fossil Energy.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Wetland Involvement; for Construction of a Consolidated Waste Processing Facility at the Miamisburg Environmental Management Project (MEMP)

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE), Miamisburg Environmental Management Project.

ACTION: Notice of wetland involvement.

SUMMARY: This is to give notice of DOE's proposal to construct a consolidated waste processing facility at the Miamisburg Environmental Management Project, located approximately ten (10) miles southwest of Dayton, Ohio. The proposed activity would involve a small portion of an isolated, man-made wetland in Montgomery County, Ohio. In accordance with 10 CFR 1022, DOE will prepare a Wetlands Assessment and conduct the proposed action in such a manner to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected wetland area.

DATES: Written comments must be received by the DOE at the following address on or before December 9, 1997.

ADDRESSES: For further information on this proposed action, including a site map and/or a copy of the Wetlands Assessment, contact: Mr. James O. Johnson, SM/PP Hill Performance/Technical Monitor, U.S. Department of Energy, Miamisburg Environmental Management Project Office, P.O. Box 66, Miamisburg, OH 45343-0066. Phone: (937) 865-5234; Facsimile: (937) 865-4489.

FOR FURTHER FURTHER INFORMATION

CONTACT: For further information on general DOE wetland and floodplain environmental review requirements, contact: Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, EH-42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20585. Phone: (202) 586-4600 or 1-800-472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed activity would directly support the ongoing environmental remediation program at the Mound Plant. Construction and operation of the temporary, pre-fabricated consolidated

waste processing facility would accomplish volume-reduction, metal recovery and waste packaging goals established for the site. Included in the construction of the facility are equipment and laydown pads and a roadway. Approximately 20% of the 50' x 60' laydown pad would encroach upon an isolated, man-made wetland with an overall areal extent of 0.04 acres. Construction of the laydown pad would, in turn, impact approximately one-third (1/3) of the subject wetland; the remaining two-thirds (2/3) of the wetland would not be impacted. The wetland was one of several delineated in the Mound Plant Habitat map (Mound Plant Ecological Characterization Report, March 1994); the map was prepared in accordance with the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual and has the concurrence of the Corps. The proposed action would result in long-term and direct impacts to approximately one-third of the 0.04 acre man-made wetland, as a result of back-filling with gravel before construction of the laydown pad. Best management practices would be utilized to minimize the amount of wetland area impacted. All reasonable efforts would be taken to backfill the smallest area of wetland possible. Staging and transport of equipment and supplies in the wetland would be avoided. Erosion controls such as silt fences would be used, if needed, to minimize sediment deposition into the wetland. Culverts would also be used, if necessary, to ensure continued overland flow to the wetland.

Issuance: Issued in Miamisburg, Ohio on November 18, 1997.

Susan L. Smiley,

NEPA Compliance Officer, Ohio Field Office.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Impact Statement for the High Flux Beam Reactor Transition Project at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, NY

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of intent (NOI).

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for the High Flux Beam Reactor (HFBR) at the Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) in Upton, New York. The EIS will evaluate the range of reasonable alternatives regarding the

future of the reactor, as required by NEPA, including: (1) No action (maintaining HFBR in a shutdown and defueled condition); (2) resume operation at a power level of 30 megawatt (MW) or up to 60 MW; (3) resume operation and enhance the facility; and (4) permanent shutdown with eventual decontamination and decommissioning (D&D). DOE invites individuals, organizations, and agencies to present oral and/or written comments concerning the scope of the EIS, including the environmental issues and alternatives the EIS should analyze.

DATES: The public scoping begins with publication of this NOI in the **Federal Register** and continues until January 23, 1998. Written comments submitted by mail should be postmarked by that date to ensure consideration. Comments mailed after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

DOE will conduct public scoping meetings to assist it in defining the appropriate scope of the EIS, including the significant environmental issues to be addressed. DOE plans to hold scoping meetings in the vicinity of BNL in December 1997 and January 1998. The December meeting will be held at the following date, time and location:

December 10, 1997, Mastic Beach Property Owners Association, 31 Neighborhood Road, Mastic Beach, New York 11951; Time: 4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Locations of additional scoping meetings to be held in January will be announced through the local media as soon as possible, but at least 15 days prior to the date of the meetings.

ADDRESSES: Please direct comments or suggestions on the scope of the EIS, requests to speak at the public scoping meetings, requests for special arrangements to enable participation at scoping meetings (e.g., interpreter for the hearing-impaired) and questions concerning the project to: Michael Holland, Brookhaven Group, U.S. Department of Energy, 53 Bell Avenue, Bldg. 464, P.O. Box 5000, Upton, NY 11973-5000, (516) 344-3552, telefax (516) 344-1377, or by electronic mail to mholland@bnl.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information associated with the research aspects of the HFBR, please contact: Iran Thomas, Deputy Associate Director, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, Office of Energy Research, U.S. Department of Energy, ER-10, Germantown, MD 20874, telephone: (301) 903-3427.

For technical information associated with reactor operation, please contact: Robert Lange, Associate Director, Office of Facilities, Office of Nuclear Energy,